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"GUM FARMING" ON THE OSCEOLA NATIONAL FOREST

Gum farming is a comparatively new term, at least insofar as its association with the naval stores industry is concerned. Essentially it means the production of crude gum rosin from longleaf and slash pine timber. This embryo industry is composed of "dirt" farmers and other individuals in northern Florida and southern Georgia who desire to increase their annual income by working longleaf and slash pine timber for naval stores.

Formerly the small landowner was forced to lease his naval stores timber to commercial operators since he either lacked the necessary capital to meet construction cost of a turpentine still or did not have sufficient timber to make an economic operation or both. Within the past couple years a number of companies have been organized which purchase crude gum from naval stores operators, distill it, and sell the products of distillation. The more widely known companies of this type are located in Valdosta, Georgia, and Jacksonville, Florida. Small timber landowners, for the most part, were handicapped in obtaining the full value of their timber when leasing it for naval stores. Now that it is possible to dispose of the crude gum many individuals are working their own naval stores timber. By reason of this procedure, the small operator receives a more equitable price for his products.

There are several farmers within or near the Osceola National Forest who usually grow a few acres of cotton, corn, chufers, or sugar cane and have vegetable gardens. It is this type of individual who finds that the harvesting of naval stores during spare time is a profitable business. The income

thus derived serves to supplement that derived from his purely agricultural crops. Some of these farmers own the timber which they can work for naval stores but the majority of such individuals have no turpentine timber, nor do they, in many cases, have enough capital or credit to purchase the necessary cups, gutters, and tools to start even a small naval stores operation. Yet, some of these small farmers are industrious and would like to make a better living for themselves.

In order to help these individuals who live close to the Osceola National Forest, the Florida National Forests have worked out a plan with the Farm Security Administration to make small loans to a few who seem most apt to be able to profit by the move. The loan, at a low rate of interest, would be sufficient to provide for the purchase of required equipment and stumpage furnished by the Forest Service to hang from one to three thousand turpentine cups.

Based upon the present cost of materials, it has been estimated that the "gum farmer" will have to borrow \$110.00 for each 1,000 faces for a five-year period in order to get started in the naval stores business. The plan has been worked out so that he will be able to repay the loan in small payments as he sells the gum. Essentially, the "gum farmer" will have a joint bank account with the Farm Security Administration.

Some half dozen individuals have made it known that they are interested in such a plan by which they hope to be able to better themselves. If the plan is successful, it will be a big step toward the solution of the social and economic problems of the people who are now merely existing.

-- Frank A. Albert, Forest Supervisor,
Florida National Forests

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THE PISGAH BIG GAME HUNT

Six hundred and three crack marksmen brought down 599 deer and 4 bear on the Big Game Hunt held recently on the Pisgah Game Preserve. Seven hundred and forty-one luckless hunters brought home "no bacon" but they did get shots and the stories they tell make one realize that there are deer in "them thar mountains."

The biggest buck killed on the hunt was a 210 lb. monarch with a ten point set of antlers and a beautiful head. This deer was killed by Reuben O. Knuth of Pisgah Forest, North Carolina, on the ridge just back of the trout rearing station on Davidson River. The hoofs of this grandpa of all Pisgah deer make good size bulls quiver with rage--a fifty pound track some say!

The next biggest deer was killed by E.C. Scott of Charlotte, North Carolina, and weighed 209 lbs. This deer had a royal head of twelve points, and was killed on the Big Creek Wilderness Hunt. Mr. H.J. Hatcher of Morganton, North Carolina, also killed a 209 lb. deer and, although the animal was younger than the other bucks and did not have as well developed antlers, it was one of the finest deer killed. Other big deer were killed by C.W. Kimball of China Grove who bagged a 205 lb. buck on Big Creek and Dr. L.D. Cleek of West Virginia who brought in a ten point buck with one of the finest set of antlers yet seen in western North Carolina.

Mr. E.J. Stoker of Greensboro, North Carolina, was rudely awakened from day dreaming on November 15 by a 300 lb. female black bear who snarlingly attacked him. Mr. Stoker calmly dispatched the creature and then went to get six men to help him carry her out of the woods. Old bear hunters said that this was the first time they had seen a black bear deliberately attack a man. Possibly other hunters had disturbed this bear and aroused her ire against all mankind; at any rate, E.J. was glad he had a loaded gun. The other bear were killed by Dr. Roy Roberts of Asheville, Nun Henderson of Hendersonville, and T.W. Klutz of Rockwell, North Carolina.

In all, 1344 hunters from twelve states participated on the Pisgah Big Game Hunt and killed 370 bucks and 229 does as well as 2 male and 2 female bear. 941 hunters were on the Main Hunt and 403 on the Wilderness Hunts. Those on the Main Hunt accounted for 275 bucks, 168 does, and the 4 bear.

Forest Service officials found that the new system of hunting whereby the hunters were permitted to drive their own cars to the shooting area met with great success and all the hunters signified their approval. The 1938 hunt was also successful in that it was the fifth big game hunt in which no hunters were shot. Over 5000 hunters have participated in these hunts without a serious accident. This year, too, no hunters were lost overnight and there were no forest fires caused by hunters.

The 1938 hunt, following the big game hunts of 1937 and 1936, shows that the deer on the Pisgah have reached a sustained yield basis and that the annual harvest from this area will be 1000 deer. From six to seven hundred deer will be removed each year by public shooting and the rest by means of deer trapping. The Pisgah Game Preserve is the only area in the East that has developed game management to such an extent that it yields a yearly harvest.

-- W. W. Huber, Pisgah National Forest

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¿HABLA ESPAÑOL?

Anotaciones Tomadas De La Conferencia Sobre Educacion De "Chauffeurs" Y Planes De Las Lecciones Para La Ensenanza De Los Mismos.

Literally - "Notes of Conference on Planned Truck Driver Training and Lesson Plans for Training Truck Drivers". Conference held at "Represa Wilson, Alabama, Septiembre 12-23, 1938".

The Supervisor of the Caribbean has sent the Regional Forester copies of a Puerto Rican translation of the notes of the Truck Driver Training session held at Wilson Dam, Alabama, stating that they had found the material very valuable to them.

It is interesting to note that a number of terms such as "steering worm and sector" have no satisfactory Spanish equivalents; thus in looking over the notes many familiar words and terms are found.

-- W. W. May, Jr., Regional CCC Training Officer

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FOREST FIRE MEDAL

Only a little more than one-third of the minimum \$3,000.00 needed to create a permanent foundation for the American Forest Medal has been subscribed to date.

This medal has been sponsored by an outside board of representatives of organizations, such as the Forest Service, National Park Service, Soil Conservation Service, CCC, Indian Service, etc. The design of the medal is now being sculptured in New York and promises to be a beautiful piece of work. Any American is eligible for the award. The medal will not be merely an award of the American Forestry Association, but an American forest fire medal, backed and sponsored by all the leading American forestry and conservation agencies of this country and so deserves the full support of everyone interested in recognizing the splendid and heroic acts of the fire fighters of this country.

Large subscriptions are not necessarily sought. The Board would like to have small subscriptions of any amount from .10¢ to \$1.00 from each and every member of conservation agencies to make it a truly representative backing of a foundation fund to start this distinctive award in American forestry annals.

Region 8 has already contributed \$294.57. Members of the Regional Office and personnel in the field who wish to add to this fund are urged to send their contributions to Mr. Bradfield, C/o Regional Office, Atlanta, to be forwarded the American Forestry Association, 919 -17th Street N.W., Washington, D.C.

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LOCAL CIVIC GROUPS HELP SOLVE INCENDIARY
FIRE PROBLEM

The Texas Forest Service fire men last year decided to enlist the active support of local civic groups and prominent individuals in the solution of the incendiary fire problem. An indication of how well this succeeded is shown by the following excerpt from the annual report of the Polk County Chamber of Commerce:

"1. Cooperated with officials of the local CCC camp during their Open House by holding a county-wide Fire Prevention Rally on Sunday, April 3. E.O. Siecke, Director of the Texas Forest Service, W. E. White, Chief of the Fire Prevention Division of the Texas Forest Service, Elmore R. Tern, Director of Agriculture for the East Texas Chamber of Commerce, and former State Senator V.A. Collins addressed close to 1,000 persons regarding the value of protecting our forests.

"2. Your Manager went with the motion picture unit of the Texas Forest Service every night for seven weeks into 35 rural communities in this county, showing motion pictures educating the people against burning the woods and speaking to them regarding the staggering loss to the county each year due to forest fires. On several occasions committees from the Chamber attended these meetings.

"3. On two occasions motion pictures belonging to the U. S. Forest Service have been secured and run in the three theatres in this county.

"4. Compiled fire loss and timber value statistics and published them through local newspapers, letters to all community leaders, and speeches in 35 rural communities.

"5. Urged all timber owners not already doing so to include in their leases clauses voiding the lease in case the leasee is guilty of burning the woods.

"6. Urged the banks to refuse loans to persons known to burn the woods.

"7. Distributed literature telling of proper forestry practices at the County Fair.

"8. Urged local law enforcement officers to strictly enforce the forest fire laws.

"9. Joined with the Director of the Texas Forest Service in urging all Vocational Agricultural Teachers in the County to attend Course in Forestry for which credit is allowed at A. & M.

"10. Invited all community leaders to be present at a meeting of the Livingston Rotary Club at which the Chief of the Fire Prevention Division of the Texas Forest Service spoke.

"11. Wired Senators Conally and Sheppard and Congressman Patton to support the increased Fire Protection Appropriation.

"12. President and Manager attended the meeting of the Forestry Committee of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce at Trinity.

"13. Wired Congressman Patton to oppose the proposed cut in the CCC Appropriation.

"14. During the time that it was feared the local CCC camp would be moved, representatives were sent to contact CCC officials from whom assurance was received that there was no immediate danger of such a happening."

-- H. J. Eberly, Regional Office

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BIRTHDAY CARD IN THE NANTAHALA MAIL

The Nantahala National Forest received a birthday card on January 29, 1939, which was its nineteenth birthday since the Presidential Proclamation of January 29, 1920 establishing it as a Forest.

You can imagine the surprise of opening the mail and having pop out a birthday greeting card addressed to the Nantahala National Forest. Mrs. Horsley, head of Section III, says she has been handling the Service mail for seven Supervisors but this was the first birthday greeting card received.

It all happened because this year the Nantahala put out an attractive green covered calendar consisting of six mimeographed sheets in booklet form with one page for each month, listing the hunting seasons, holidays, phases of the moon and interesting facts about the Nantahala National Forest, including its birthday date. Over 2,500 people received a copy. Mr. Henry Robertson, a retired lawyer of Highlands, North Carolina, is the man who had the happy idea of sending a card to the Forest. His friendly greeting was: "Nantahala National Forest, Many prosperous returns of the day. Thanks for the calendar."

-- Supervisor's Office, Nantahala

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TIMBER NOTES

Lumber manufactured at Troy, North Carolina, the headquarters of the Uharie Unit, from timber grown within the unit, is marketed in considerable quantities near Baltimore, Maryland. With a fleet of four Diamond T trucks, each equipped with a special trailer, one of the local residents has built up a splendid trucking business hauling the manufactured lumber from the planing mill to market.

Each truck carries an average load of 12,000 feet of lumber an average distance of 400 miles three times each week to market. Loads as large as 15,000 feet have been noted. The trailer bodies are so designed that on the return trip 400 bushels of wheat are loaded at Baltimore, Maryland, and transported back through Troy, North Carolina, to the flour mills at Albemarle, North Carolina, 26 miles beyond Troy. This is a 426 mile trip. The only part of the trip that the trailers are driven empty is the 26 miles from Albemarle to Troy where the trucks are completely checked and serviced before taking on another load of lumber.

It is reported that the planed lumber costs the truck operator about \$17.00 per M at the concentration yard, and that he receives about \$22.50 per M for this material at the market.

-- John B. Fortin, Acting District Ranger,
Pisgah National Forest

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INSURANCE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The following digest of information on insurance companies dealing specifically with Government employees is reprinted from a Region 9 circular:

While the organizations listed below are generally recognized as being sound and giving satisfactory service, it should be understood that this office does not have the facilities to make a detailed investigation and therefore cannot give any unqualified endorsement. Each of you will have to investigate and decide for yourselves as to the merits of any of these institutions.

Probably the oldest organization for group insurance of Government employees is the "Government Employees Mutual Relief Association, Washington, D.C." This organization, restricted to male membership, was organized in 1905. For the payment of \$1.00 per month it gives certain benefits during disability and provides for payment for medical attention and hospital bills and, in case of death, provides a limited fund for burial. The Association has an excellent record and while the benefits it offers necessarily are limited by the small fee charged, it is well worth the investigation of everyone.

The Federal-Postal Employees Association of Denver, Colorado, offers an annual, renewable, term, group life insurance without medical examination up to \$3,000 and with regular medical examination up to \$5,000. The premium for this insurance increases from year to year with increasing age. Therefore, the insurance is most useful if taken as a term insurance to provide protection over a limited period. Its value may be questioned if it is planned to carry the insurance for one's entire life since the premiums at advanced years may become prohibitive.

The Federal-Postal Employees Life Insurance is underwritten with the General American Life Insurance Company of St. Louis. This company also offers accident, sickness and hospital insurance with accidental death benefits. Underwriting of this type of insurance is with the Maryland Casualty Company.

The United States Department of Agriculture Beneficial and Relief Association, Washington, D.C., is confined to employees of the Department of Agriculture. The President is Dr. W.W. Stockberger, Assistant to the Secretary. This Association offers life insurance without medical examination in amounts up to \$3,000 per annum at very reasonable fees. The insurance remains in force as long as dues are paid regardless of whether the member leaves the Government Service. The Association also offers hospital, accident and sickness benefits with a very wide range of options and at very reasonable premiums.

The Government Employees Benefit Association, Faidley Building, Omaha, Nebraska, offers a very similar plan to that of the Department of Agriculture Beneficial and Relief Association. One may purchase life insurance in sums up to \$2,500 per annum and also a liberal schedule of sickness, accident and hospital benefits. This Association has wide membership and apparently has been very successful.

It should be understood that none of these Associations are in any sense charity organizations. All except the Government Employees Mutual Relief Association underwrite their insurance with commercial companies and the savings which they are able to offer you on your premiums are due exclusively to two factors, of which the chief one is that they operate virtually without agents and therefore save the selling costs attendant on handling ordinary insurance business. To a limited extent they probably get a slightly reduced rate due to the fact that they deal with a selected group of risks. A letter to any of them will bring full information.

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VACATION IN FLORIDA

At Camp Pinchot, on the Choctawhatchee, former summer headquarters for the Forest Supervisor, there are three furnished houses available for rent to appointed personnel of Region 8 during the calendar year 1939 at the following rates:

House #1	\$2.00 per day
House #2	1.50 per day
House #3	1.00 per day

These houses are completely furnished except linen, with electric lights and refrigeration, running water, shower bath and facilities for hot water. They are located on Garniers Bayou, both swimming and fishing at the door.

It is advisable for anyone, especially for the novice, coming to Camp Pinchot and contemplating some serious salt water fishing to review Stewart Miller's "Florida Fishing" (G. Howard Watt Anblisher, New York).

This publication contains detailed information on species available, methods of fishing, hooks, lines, rods, tides, baits, locations, and seasons.

Boats for deep sea fishing into the Gulf are available at the town of Destin. Groceries and meat may be purchased in the nearby villages of Valparaiso and Niceville. Fresh fish may be purchased at the commercial fish house in Niceville. Ice is available at Niceville. Mail may be directed to either the Valparaiso or the Niceville Post Offices.

Gulf swimming may be enjoyed at nearby Fort Walton Beach. This town is one of the centers of the summer tourist business on the Gulf Coast. The Naval Air Station at Pensacola, some fifty miles away, and the paper mill of the Southern Kraft Company of Panama City, a distance of seventy-five miles, are suggested as interesting one-day trips. The numerous planes, with their varied insignia to be seen at Eglin Field at Valparaiso, which is a regular Army field, are of interest.

Deer may be observed at dusk by driving west on Forest Road #234 and entering the Choctawhatchee State Game Refuge on Forest Road #255 or #256 as the area between Live Oak and Prairie Creek is quite heavily stocked.

The President of the Region 8 Service Club, Frank A. Albert, P. O. Box 1050, Tallahassee, will now consider applications for reservations for these houses in the order that they are received.

-- Robert L. Parkman, Executive Assistant,
Florida National Forests

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FELLOWSHIPS IN FORESTRY

The Division of Forestry of the University of California announces two fellowships for \$700 and \$450, respectively, are available to graduate students for the academic year 1939-40. In addition to these fellowships, it is understood that several assistantships in forestry are available, the holders of which give assistance to the staff of the Division of Forestry. Full particulars regarding these student aids can be obtained by addressing Professor Robert A. Cockrell, Division of Forestry, University of California, Berkeley, California.

Cornell University has announced the establishment of the Henry Strong Denison graduate fellowships in agriculture, in memory of Henry Strong Denison, a graduate of Cornell University in the class of 1905. Three fellowships with an annual stipend of \$1,000 each will be awarded in the fields of the plant sciences, animal sciences, social sciences, and agricultural engineering, for the purpose of encouraging your graduate students "who are especially gifted and qualified to carry on research work in the science of agriculture." Applications must be filed in the office of the Graduate School before March 1.

IN MEMORIAM

An atmosphere of gloom and sadness prevailed when the death of Billy Keil became known. Mr. Keil, 58 years old, had been our authority on fish investigations and research on the Pisgah National Forest for five years. His kindness and his cheerful disposition endeared him to all who knew him.

Mr. Keil was recognized as a pioneer in stream improvement work in the United States. His original experience in this type of work was received at Tuxedo Park in the State of New York. Later as a fish commissioner of the State of Idaho his interest in stream improvement increased. In cooperation with the Bureau of Fisheries, stream improvement studies on the Pisgah, Nantahala, Cherokee, and Chattahoochee National Forests were carried on under his supervision.

In addition to his research in the improvement of streams, he was in charge of fish management and investigations on the Pisgah National Forest. Plans for the Davidson River Fish Rearing Station were drawn by him, its construction was carried out under his general supervision, and in its operation he later figured prominently. Mr. Keil also acted as consultant in the preparation of designs and laying out plans for several other trout rearing stations in Region 8. Proof that his ideas and plans were held in high regard is the fact that in the spring of 1938 he was placed in charge of fish studies on all National Forests of the Appalachian region. Previous to that time his work had been confined to the Pisgah National Forest.

Mr. Keil was a friend not only to the Forest Service personnel, but also to the local fishermen. They respected his judgment and knowledge, recognized his ability, and considered him an authority in his line of work. From him they frequently sought advice and information, and it was always a pleasure to him to be of service to them.

Yes, we are missing his humming and his whistling, yet we know--

"To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late."

-- Faye Mulholland, Pisgah National Forest

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GEORGIA UNIVERSITY GETS USE OF 13,000 ACRE TRACT

Under a cooperative and license agreement, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has turned over to the University System of Georgia the use of a 13,000 acre area of submarginal land purchased by the Department in Putnam County, Georgia. The tract is one part of the Plantation Piedmont land utilization project. The

area will be used by the University System of Georgia for research and demonstration work in land use and land conservation. The agreement provides for use of the area by the University System for fifty years.

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CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

Junior Professional Assistant, \$2,000 a Year, with optional branches:

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Jr. Admin. Technician | 12. Jr. Geologist |
| 2. Jr. Agronomist | 13. Jr. Home Economist |
| 3. Jr. Bacteriologist | 14. Jr. Pharmacist |
| 4. Jr. Biologist | 15. Jr. Plant Pathologist |
| 5. Jr. Botanist (Taxonomic) | 16. Jr. Plant Physiologist |
| 6. Jr. Dairy Husbandman | 17. Jr. Pomologist |
| 7. Jr. Economist | 18. Jr. Range Examiner |
| 8. Jr. Engineer | 19. Jr. Soil Scientist |
| 9. Jr. Entomologist | 20. Jr. Statistician |
| 10. Jr. Examination Assistant | 21. Jr. Textile Technologist |
| 11. Jr. Forester | 22. Jr. Veterinarian |

Applications must be on file with the U.S. Civil Service Commission at Washington, D.C., not later than February 27, 1939.

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PERSONNEL CHANGES

The following employees have been furloughed recently: Jr. Forester Francis M. Patton, Pisgah; Motor Patrol Grader Operators Reuben A. Strickland and Lacey D. Owens, Florida; Minor Asst. to Techn. Arthur L. Burton, Texas; Tractor Operator William Wiggins, Cherokee, and Jr. Forester William O. Stewart, Florida.

During the past several weeks resignations have been accepted from Minor Asst. to Techn. Brevard D. Moore, Florida State; Senior Engr. Draftsman Earl Polmateer, Chattahoochee, and Jr. Clerk-Typist John W. Fisher, Mississippi.

Announcement is made of the duration probationary appointment of Mrs. Ruth A. May as Jr. Clerk-Stenographer on the Magazine RD, Ouachita, and of the temporary appointment pending certification of eligibles of John D. Yarborough as Jr. Civil Engineer, Supervisor's office, Ouachita.

The following employees have been restored to the rolls from furlough: George D. Scott, Foreman of Construction & Maintenance, Nantahala; Mrs. Blanche M. Duren, Under Clerk-Typist, Supervisor's office, Ouachita; Stanley R. Johnson as Shelterbelt Assistant on the Prairie States Forestry Project.

Transfers have been effected recently, as follows: Texas-- Jr. Forester Walter L. Lane from the Sabine to the Angelina RD;

Jr. Forester Erwin A. Heers from the Supervisor's office to the Crockett RD in the capacity of Asst. District Ranger vice R. D. Williams; Jr. Forester Harry N. Rounsefell from the Crockett to the Angelina RD.

Florida: Minor Asst. to Techn. John F. Beall from the Wakulla to the Osceola RD; Jr. Forester Henry R. Wright from the Osceola to the Choctawhatchee RD.

Pisgah: Jr. Forester William L. Davis from the French Broad RD to the Uharie PU; Associate Forester Frederick J. Ruff from the Supervisor's office to the Division of Management, Regional Office; Jr. Forester William W. Huber from the Pisgah RD, where he was serving in the capacity of Asst. District Ranger, to the Mt. Mitchell RD as Acting District Ranger vice N. F. Rogers, detailed to the NEFE. S.C.& Croatan: Jr. Forester Edwin L. Giddings from the Enoree RD to the Supervisor's office.

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THE LOOKOUT

Regional Forester Kircher and Mr. Shaw are back in the office after a trip to Puerto Rico.

Former State Forester Heyward of Georgia, the new General Manager of the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association, has opened offices at 1501 First National Bank Building. Mrs. Julia Hadley will serve as his secretary.

Regional Office visitors during the past month were Earl S. Peirce, S&PF, Washington Office; D. J. Weddell, now Acting Director, Georgia Division of Forestry; A.G.T. Moore and B. M. Lufburrow, Southern Pine Association, New Orleans, La.; R. A. Conard, Director CCC, Columbia, S.C.; Ellwood Wilson, Knowlton, Quebec; W. C. Knight, Cherokee National Forest; H. Wallace, Louisville, Ky.; H. A. Smith, State Forester, Columbia, S. C.

The Regional Office is happy to welcome back Mrs. Mary Andrews, ovr telephone receptionist, after a recent illness.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rimer on the birth of a son, Frank III, on February 4.

The hurricane of last September 21 hit the Regional Office on January 21 and blew Miss Rachel Lincoln to the New England Forest Emergency Office in Boston, Massachusetts. Miss Lincoln served as the efficient and popular Administrative Assistant in the Division of Timber Management since 1934. The Glenn Building misses her bright personality, and from a snowdrift on Beacon Street, she has this to say: "I would trade all the beans in Boston for one hour of Atlanta sunshine."

MORE ON FIELD OFFICE INSPECTION

The Editor of the Dixie Ranger has asked for additional ideas on subjects brought up by Administrative Assistant Nichols. Here are mine:

My first observation is that a good many of the questions in the camp audit outline can be answered without leaving the Supervisor's Office. For instance, Under "Personal Services":

3. Do time slips and time reports reflect accurately days absent on leave, annual, sick and without pay?

4. Ascertain that time slips and time reports are complete and uniformly prepared to show full christian name, initial if any, etc.

Both of these points are checked before payroll is prepared in Supervisor's Office.

Under "Purchases", items 1, 2, 3 & 4, the Supervisor knows that the Project Superintendent issues written purchase orders only for gasoline and that no verbal orders are placed. Also, that if acknowledged purchase orders are not sent in promptly, the Accounting Department will trace. So many of these points are already known to the Supervisor that it does seem useless to state in the audit report that "The Project Superintendent issues purchase orders only for gasoline and if any emergency supplies are needed the Ranger has the authority to make the purchase". Likewise, "Receipted purchase orders are sent in as soon as supplies are received." In case they are not, the Supervisor's office takes the matter up with the field man whenever this is not done.

While these questions and answers are of little or no use to the Supervisor, it may be essential that they be incorporated in the report for the benefit of the Regional Office for they cannot know that "The Project Superintendent issues purchase orders only for gasoline, etc." I feel that for this reason the report should contain those points obviously known to the Supervisor and his clerical staff.

I quite agree with Mr. Nichols that there is a need for a general assistant who would be in training for the position of administrative assistant for the following reasons:

1. In the past year I have spent 18 days in the field. Three units were visited, leaving the Enoree and Croatan untouched. The section I head made the audits on these two districts. When the Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor are in the field it is necessary that the Administrative Assistant remain in the office. At times even if only one of them is in the field, the Administrative Assistant is required to remain in the office. I believe one of the important jobs an Administrative Assistant has is to act as liaison officer between the field force and his clerical staff. I believe he should visit each district not less than 2 days every other month for the sole purpose of getting better acquainted with the field

force, helping them where needed and finding out what the forest contains. This would be in the nature of a combined inspection and good will tour.

2. The section I head, bookkeeper, supply officer, and others would be able to take annual leave without having the work suffer, if a capable person were available to fill in during their absence. At the moment we have a supply officer on a well earned vacation. (He had 53 days due when he started on this 10 day vacation.) The property clerk is trying to do both jobs but it cannot be done. Something must slide. At the same time our bookkeeper is in the hospital after an appendectomy and will not return for several weeks yet. The section I head is trying to keep things up. I help a little when work permits. Just think how well the general assistant would fit in here.

3. He could make the following audits and inventories during the year, or could take over the Administrative Assistant's position while he went to the field to make some of them.

Annual Audits

5 Ranger Districts @ 1 week each	5 weeks
4 Parts Inventories Central Repair Shop	2 "
5 Ranger District Annual Physical Property Checks	5 "
1 Central Repair Shop Property Inventory	3 days
1 Central Warehouse Property Inventory	1 week
1 Central Repair Shop Audit	3 days
1 Central Warehouse Audit	3 "

Roughly this would account for 15 weeks of the general Assistant's time. Adding the time the Administrative Assistant goes to the field on liaison trips, about 9 weeks, and the vacation time of the Administrative Assistant, Section I head, Bookkeeper and Supply Officer, another 15 weeks, makes a total of 39 weeks. This would leave him with enough time on his hands to work closely with the Administrative Assistant on his desk, enable him to absorb the cost accounting manual and actually provide time for him to read the Fiscal and Accounts Section of the new Forest Service Manual. I plan diligently to read the manual systematically, however, thus far I have only found time to use it as a reference book.

I am a great believer in training subordinates for more responsible clerical positions. I like this phase of the work and feel that it is an extremely important part of my job. It could be accomplished more quickly and smoothly if the general assistant were available to fill in on different jobs as needed. An overload of work, even temporarily, prevents much constructive thinking for the only thought is of the pile of work and the desire to get it out in a hurry. I had to lay this article aside temporarily and resumed work on it 15 days later.

The supply officer is over in the Sumter CCC Central Repair Shop, breaking in a new combination shop clerk and parts man. This will take about 2 weeks and once again the property clerk is trying to do both jobs and since each is a full time job, you know the answer, something must wait. I was able to spend one day on this job--not nearly enough, for not much effective training can be done in one day. The training will be done by the supply officer. The supply officer stayed one week and was recalled when the property clerk was taken ill with a heavy cold. He has been out for four days and now the supply officer is trying to do both jobs.

In the Forest Service offices I have been in, the full time of the entire clerical personnel has been occupied in keeping the current work up. We have always been undermanned to some degree as we always have some things that should be done but there is no time to do them. Therefore, when the force is one short, the work lags behind. This is an unfortunate condition, causing the force to work under pressure to such an extent that not as much constructive thinking can be done. The constant "drive" is a forerunner of a bad case of the "jitters".

The addition of the general assistant would do much to overcome this condition and would be a worthwhile investment. The work could then be kept up to date and the staff men and field force would not be inconvenienced by the lack of service in the matter of stenographic and fiscal assistance and the receipt of supplies in the field.

The foregoing is the result of considerable head scratching, coupled with a desire to portray conditions as they are. I hope it will be of some assistance to you.

-- George A. Otto, Administrative Assistant,
South Carolina and Croatan National
Forests

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COMMUNITY FORESTS

A recent departmental news release states that more than 143 million trees have been planted on 15 community forests in the United States, which contain about 3 million acres, and cites the need for at least 10,000 community forests with an area of 20 million acres. In this connection, the following is reprinted from a recent issue of the Mississippi Fire News: "The Community Forest offers a real fire prevention angle. The cooperation possible as the result of the establishment of one or more of these forests is unlimited. These barren sixteenth sections could once again bear productive forests. The opportunity is there. All that is needed is some leadership. Even a Yankee could get elected to office on a platform that promised tax free schools in ten years. What District will sponsor the first Community Forest for their residents?"

